

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07

OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01

PA-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 OIC-02 INT-05 /127 W

-----061561 311726Z /43

O 311620Z MAR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7838

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 04844

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EMIN

SUBJECT: TUNGSTEN - APRIL 4 MEETING OF THE TDB

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REF: STATE 79031

1. MISSION OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED REFTEL AND RESPONSES FROM EACH OF ADDRESSEE POSTS WITH SEVERAL LOCAL DELS. MISSION OFFICER HAS ALSO SPOKEN WITH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL REP (GLENN), WHO RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS THIS MORNING FROM CANBERRA, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH HE ADVISES HAS ALSO BEEN SENT TO ALL MAJOR PRODUCING AND CONSUMING CAPITALS.

2. MOST LOCAL REPS FAMILIAR WITH TUNGSTEN ISSUES ARE NOT IN GENEVA THIS WEEK, MAKING COORDINATION SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO THE SWEDISH RESPONSE, MISSION OFFICER HAS BEEN IN DAILY
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CONTACT WITH BJORN ELMER REGARDING THE SWEDISH POSITION. ELMER WHO IS ATTENDING COTTON MEETING HAD HEARD OF SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL FROM STOCKHOLM AND HAS TODAY FORWARDED HIS OWN RECOMMENDATIONS. HE HAD HOPED THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO RETURN TO GENEVA HIMSELF ON TUESDAY, BUT IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS HE FEELS HIS PRESENCE MAY BE REQUIRED.

IF COTTON MEETING CARRIES OVER UNTIL MONDAY HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO STOCKHOLM. HIS RECOMMENDATION TO SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IS THAT IF A VOTE DOES ARISE IN TDB, SWEDEN VOTE "NO" BUT MAKE NO COMMENT AS TO ITS POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN A NEGOTIATION IF ONE IS CALLED FOR BY THE TDB.

3. LOCAL CANADIAN REP HAD HEARD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING FROM OTTAWA BUT MISSION OFFICER ADVISED HIM DEPARTMENT MAY BE IN CONTACT WITH OTTAWA IN NEXT DAY OR SO AND, IN ANY CASE, RECEIPT OF AUSTRALIAN POSITION MAY PROMPT OTTAWA TO ADVISE LOCAL REP OF POSITION TO TAKE ON TUESDAY. LOCAL REP FEELS CANADA IS MOST LIKELY TO ABSTAIN IF A VOTE IS TAKEN.

4. GORDON BARRASS OF UK HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH LONDON TODAY AND HE BELIEVES UK WILL ABSTAIN ON VOTE EXPLAINING THAT IT DOES NOT BELIEVE VOTE SHOULD BE TAKEN WITHOUT CONSENSUS AND THAT PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS UNLIKELY WHEN MAJOR PARTIES ARE UNWILLING TO ATTEND. COMMENT: IF UK TAKES THIS POSITION, SWEDEN AND PROBABLY JAPAN ARE LIKELY TO ADOPT SOME STANCE WHICH THEN PUTS FRG INTO A BIND. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FURTHER INTERVENTION WITH HMG. END COMMENT.

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5. AS GLENN INTERPRETS HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM CANBERRA, HE IS TO SEARCH FOR SOME MECHANISM BY WHICH A DECISION OR RECOMMENDATION IS MADE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONVENE A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE, PERHAPS PRECEDED BY PREPARATORY MEETINGS. GLENN APPRECIATES FULLY THAT A DETERMINED EFFORT TO SEEK COMMITMENT TO A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE AT SOME STAGE, EVEN IF COUCHED IN LANGUAGE CALLING FOR FURTHER PREPARATORY MEETINGS, WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE AND PROCEDURAL DODGES ARE THEREFORE NOT LIKELY TO BE VERY FRUITFUL. HIS VIEW IS THAT EVEN IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE TDB SEEKS TO AVOID A VOTE, IF OTHER PROCEDURES FAIL TO BRING ABOUT SOME DIRECTIVE MOVING PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS TOWARD A NEGOTIATION, AUSTRALIA MAY BE COMPELLED TO PUSH THE ISSUE TO A VOTE. GLENN FEELS THAT HIS FLEXIBILITY IS VERY LIMITED, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS POSITION IS NO DOUBT IN PART BASED ON HARD-LINE POSITIONS BY BOTH CHINA AND BOLIVIA, NEITHER OF WHOM IS LIKELY TO COME TO THE TDB ON TUESDAY WITH MUCH FLEXIBILITY. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT EXPECT FINAL INSTRUCTIONS UNTIL AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES HAVE REPORTED BACK RESPONSES TO CABLE SENT OUT LAST NIGHT.

6. AMBASSADOR DE ALWIS OF SRI LANKA, PRESIDENT OF THE TDB, HAS ADVISED MISSION HE WOULD SEEK ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES TO AVOID A VOTE. HE RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PAPER OVER DIFFERENCES BUT FEELS AT THE SAME TIME THAT A VOTE WILL ACHIEVE NOTHING. MISSION OFFICER CONCURRED IN THIS VIEW BUT AT THE SAME TIME INDICATED THAT IF PRODUCERS ARE PREPARED TO PUSH THE ISSUE TO A VOTE, KNOWING FULL WELL IN ADVANCE THIS MAY BE THE END OF DISCUSSIONS ON TUNGSTEN AND SIGNAL THE DEMISE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN, WE ARE PREPARED FOR SUCH A RESULT. (IT WOULD APPEAR FROM FRG RESPONSE THAT FRG IS EQUALLY

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PREPARED FOR SUCH A POSSIBILITY.) GROUP B MEETS MONDAY MORNING AND SINCE TUNGSTEN IS ONLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE BEFORE TDB SESSION, MOST OF DISCUSSION WILL PROBABLY CENTER ON THIS ISSUE. OTHER CONSUMERS OUTSIDE THE GROUP OF FIVE, E.G. FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE CALLING OF A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. IF PRINCIPLES FROM CAPITALS SUCH AS BONN AND LONDON ARE NOT IN GENEVA MONDAY MORNING, MISSION WILL SEEK TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE FIVE BEFORE SPELLING OUT THE US POSITION IN ANY DETAIL. WE ASSUME AMBASSADOR DE ALWIS WILL CONSULT WITH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS PRIOR TO OPENING OF TDB

SESSION AND MAY SET UP CONTACT GROUP TO SEE IF A
VOTE CAN BE AVOIDED. SINCE TIME IS VERY SHORT AND
IT MAY TAKE UNTIL MONDAY NIGHT BEFORE VARIOUS COMMUNI-
CATIONS CAN FLOW BETWEEN CONSUMING COUNTRY CAPITALS
AND CANBERRA, AND BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ADDRESSEE
POSTS, WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE TAKING THE ISSUE MUCH
FURTHER IN GENEVA UNTIL TUESDAY MORNING. VANDEN
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